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International Preliminary Examining Authority
European Patent Office
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September 22, 2004

REPLY TO WRITTEN OPINION

Application no.: **PCT/CA03/01105**

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS OF CONTROLLING A LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY VIEWING AREA**

Intl Filing Date: **July 23, 2003**

Priority Date: **July 23, 2002**

Authorized officer: **M. Harke**

Our file: **PAT 53966W-90**

This is in reply to the Written Opinion from the International Preliminary Examining Authority dated **June 23, 2004**.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend Claims 1 and 9 and replace original claim sheets 8 and 9 with replacement sheets 8 and 9 submitted herewith. Replacement sheets for pages 8 and 9 of the claims are enclosed. Claims 2 to 8 are unchanged.

REMARKS

The Written Opinion provided a negative statement in regard to novelty / inventive step for Claims 1 to 9. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this statement in view of the amendment to claims 1 and 9 and the following comments.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 9 to include the subject matter of the event change being selected from a list of event changes.

Claim 1 now reads:

A method for indicating an event change in a first area of a viewing area of a liquid crystal display (LCD), the LCD viewing area having a second area, surrounded by said first area, for displaying images, the method comprising the steps of:

providing control information;

determining said event change from a list of event changes based on said control information;

determining a first drive signal for said event change; and

supplying a first group of pixels in said first area with said first drive signal, said first group of pixels comprising at least one pixel, thereby controlling a colour of said first group of pixels with said first drive signal.

Claim 9 now reads:

An apparatus for controlling a viewing area of a liquid crystal display (LCD) comprising: a liquid crystal display (LCD) having a first area for indication of at least one event change and a second area, surrounded by said first area, for displaying images;

a controlling element for determining said at least one event change from a set of event changes and for creating control information corresponding to said at least one event change; and

an LCD driver circuit for transmitting signals to said first area based on said control information for indicating said at least one event change.

In D1, the TALLY_ON signal simply indicates that the camera has been selected for operation. There is only one possible event change for the camera when it is in the non-operation position and that is to be in the operation position. There is no requirement to determine which event change the TALLY_ON signal is indicating since there is only one possible choice. Applicant respectfully believes that the D1 reference does not show that more than one event change is contemplated by the TALLY_ON signal. Although the reference discloses the use of one of the sub-display areas for

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character or image information, Applicant respectfully believes that this is not an indication of an event change but simply the provision or more information concerning the image in the main viewing display area.

Applicant respectfully believes support for this amendment may be found at page 7 lines 19 to 22.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for a fully favourable International Preliminary Examination Report, which is requested.

Yours very truly,

Borden Ladner Gervais LLP

Per: 
Jeffrey W. Wong

Encls: Amended claim pages 8 and 9